ISSUE 01

AGRIVIEW

FEBRUARY 2009 VOLUME 5

Thinking Outside the Corrals conference

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Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture

Minister's Message

With every new year comes new opportunities and new challenges.

The Saskatchewan Party government has undertaken some significant initiatives that will help keep Saskatchewan economically strong and growing in 2009.

In October 2008, Premier Brad Wall announced an historic investment into infrastructure, reduction in debt and tax cuts that will stimulate our economy and help Saskatchewan to lead the country in growth in 2009.

In addition to moving ahead with these measures to keep our economy growing, the provincial government also has several key agriculture priorities for 2009.

We reviewed the Crop Insurance Program throughout 2008, which included consultations with producers and producer groups. We will be announcing several program improvements at the end of February when the 2009 program is unveiled.

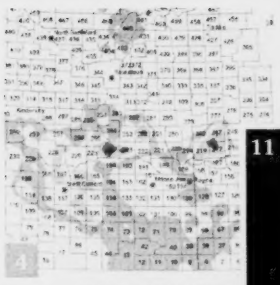
The province is also underway to bring the administration of AgriStability to Saskatchewan. We are working to have the program administered at Crop Insurance for 2010, processing applications for the 2009 program year. I believe this move will create a more reliable and responsive program.

Another key area we will continue working with the federal government towards is improved trade, especially with the United States. Saskatchewan exported more than $1.2 billion worth of agriculture products to the United States in 2007. As of the end of October, the U.S. had already imported over $1.3 billion worth of agriculture products from Saskatchewan in 2008. They are our most important trading partner and it is imperative we remain open trade for our producers.

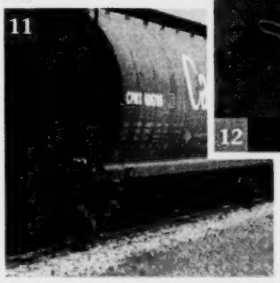
Saskatchewan also continues to urge the federal government to work towards a successful conclusion to the Doha Round of agricultural trade negotiations in the World Trade Organization (WTO). We were pleased with Minister Ken Ambrose and federal International Trade Minister Stockwell Day's WTO trade challenge of Canada at the end of November.

Despite the current volatility in the world markets and the challenges facing Saskatchewan producers, I am optimistic for the future of this industry and confident our province will continue to grow in 2009.

STORY



2009 Grasshopper forecast



Level of service review

Crop Development Centre

Food Centre online

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Cover: Machinery sits silent, awaiting a busy spring.

Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture

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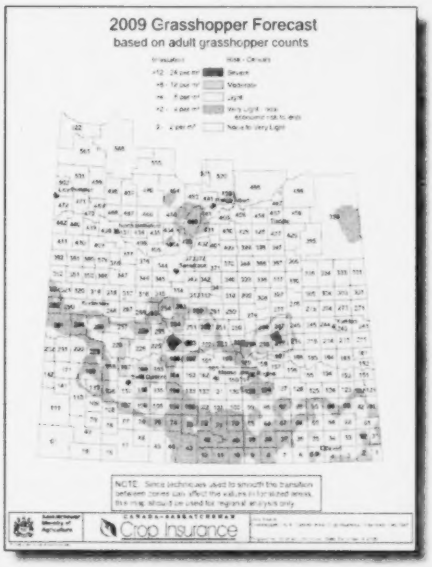
To view this publication online, visit www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/programs-services.

The 2009 Saskatchewan Grasshopper Forecast Map

by Scott Hartley, PAg
Provincial Specialist, Insects
Crop Development Branch

The annual grasshopper survey identified areas of high population that could result in economic losses for producers in southern Saskatchewan in 2009. The forecast map is based on observations of adult grasshoppers during the 2008 fall survey undertaken by Saskatchewan Crop Insurance personnel. The survey includes nearly 1,200 sites and reflects the number of adult grasshoppers capable of reproduction and egg-laying. This provides an estimate of grasshopper eggs that can survive the winter, hatch the following spring and present a risk to crops.

The 2009 Grasshopper Forecast Map indicates light to severe areas of risk in the southwest, extending from south of Swift Current to north of Elrose (Rural Municipality [RM] 257). Light to severe risk areas have also been identified in the Lipton (RM 217) and Southey (RM 218) areas. Most of the southeast, including the Estevan, Weyburn and Redvers areas, show the risk from grasshoppers to be from very light to moderate.



Moderate infestations of eight to 12 grasshoppers per square metre can present a risk to most annual crops. It should be noted that the economic threshold, the pest population level at which control measures are cost effective, is lowered when commodity prices rise.

Cool temperatures in the spring of 2008 slowed grasshopper development. By July, however, infestations in some areas reached high enough levels to require insecticide control. Control measures were primarily in lentil crops where the economic threshold is only two grasshoppers per square metre. The areas most affected were in the South- Central region around Elrose (RM 257), Rosetown (RM 287), Outlook (RM 284) and Riverhurst (RM 224).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

- Contact the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377.

PLANT DISEASES TO WATCH IN 2009: ERGOT, ROOT ROT AND CLUBROOT

by Faye Dokken, M.Sc., AAg
Provincial Specialist, Plant Disease
Crop Development Branch

Snow is on the ground, the harvest is in the bin and plant diseases are waiting through the winter for their next opportunity to attack. While the following information outlines a few disease issues reported in Saskatchewan in 2008, it is important to remember that each farm is unique. Consider having seed tested, plan crop rotations with disease risk in mind and scout crops to recognize diseases on your farm.

Cereals

Diseases in 2008: fusarium head blight, leaf spots, ergot, powdery mildew, sooty moulds.

Fusarium head blight symptoms were observed in all soil zones surveyed in 2008. The highest levels were in wheat and barley on the east side of the province.

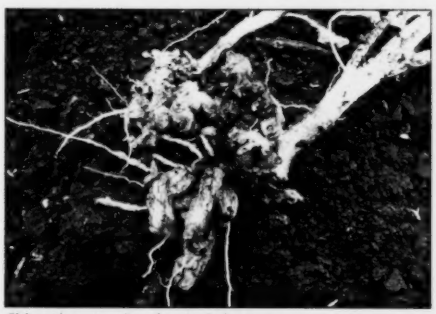
Watch out in 2009! Ergot bodies present on crop residue will be a potential source of infection, placing nearby grasses and cereals at risk.

Pulses

Diseases in 2008: root rot, ascochyta, anthracnose, sclerotinia, stemphylium blight.

Root rot became a problem in 2008 when low temperatures and soil moisture stress inhibited growth and nodulation. Seed treatments may successfully prevent root rot initially - but when growth is slow - time can run out for the treatment to remain effective.

Watch out in 2009! A gradual loss of disease control may occur over time when fungicides from the same group are used repeatedly in a field. Consider resistance management when selecting fungicides.


Clubroot has not yet been found in Saskatchewan

Oilseeds

Diseases in 2008 (per cent of plants with disease in surveyed crops, Saskatchewan canola disease survey): sclerotinia (seven per cent), blackleg (2.4 per cent), aster yellows (0.2 per cent), foot rot (0.1 per cent), alternaria black spot (trace).

In 2008, 70 per cent of the 130 canola crops surveyed exhibited hail damage, and blackleg was often associated with wounds, even when the canola might otherwise be considered resistant. Blackleg is genetically diverse and can overcome resistance, therefore practice crop rotations to reduce risk.

Watch out in 2009! Clubroot is present in Alberta but has not been found in Saskatchewan. Scout canola fields diligently and contact the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture if you suspect clubroot.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377.

Predicting Herbicide Residues - Surprises are Unlikely in 2009

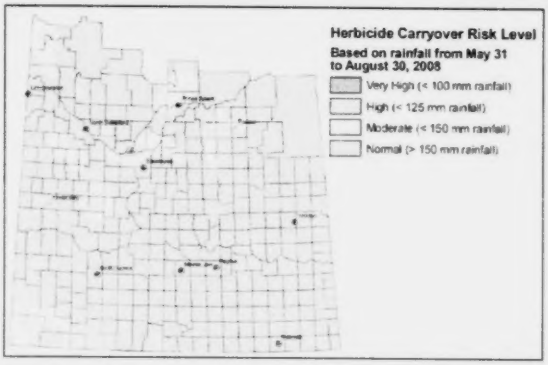
by Clark Brenzil,
Provincial Weed Control Specialist
Crop Development Branch

When selecting which crop to plant for a particular field, it is important to revisit your spraying log from the last two or three years to determine if there are any herbicide residues you should be concerned about. While most herbicides are not a concern for following crops, there are some that can remain active in the soil for longer than one season and negatively impact sensitive crops that follow. Often this results in a flash of yellow in the new growth or unusual shape to the stem or leaves following a heavy rain, and the crop recovers and yields normally, but in other cases yield or maturity date can suffer, resulting in economic loss.

When planning or changing rotations, check the herbicide records for your field against pages 53 to 55 of the 2009 Guide to Crop Protection for possible herbicides of concern. If one of the herbicides in the charts on these pages has been used in the field, consult the information page for that herbicide in the Guide to Crop Protection as well as the product label for details on potential planting restrictions.

Because both primary processes for the breakdown of herbicides rely on moist soil, in-season rainfall is critical to the successful degradation of herbicides. Little breakdown occurs in early spring or late in fall since soils are too cool. Dry conditions increase the likelihood of greater than expected residues in future seasons and a risk of injury to even moderately tolerant crops.

Fortunately most of Saskatchewan received regular rainfall throughout the season, and in amounts sufficient to ensure that labelled cropping restrictions will be appropriate for planning rotations.



The accompanying map is produced from Crop Reporter Rainfall Records from the start of June to the end of August 2008. Some manufacturers suggest that more than 100 mm of in-season rainfall is needed for adequate breakdown of their products and others recommend up to 150 mm, so check labels and product restrictions in the Guide to Crop Protection closely.

The *2009 Guide to Crop Protection* is available from local crop supply outlets, or online at the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture website:

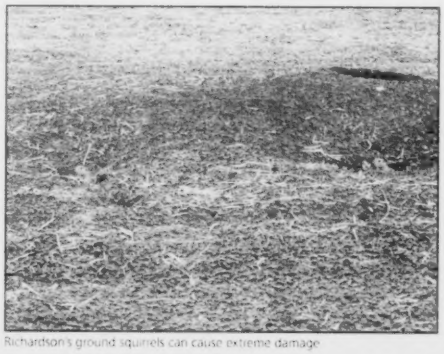
or call the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377 for more information.

CONTROLLING THE RICHARDSON'S GROUND SQUIRREL

by Cameron Wilk
Acting Provincial Manager, Field Services
Inspection and Regulatory Management branch

Agricultural producers, particularly those in the Southwest, are well aware of the challenges in managing the Richardson's ground squirrel, also known as the gopher.

Management efforts include shooting, trapping, the use of toxic baits, fumigation, injecting foams and gasses into the burrows and cultural efforts. Toxic baits may include chlorphacinone (Rozol), or Zinc Phosphide (Burrowing Oat Bait). However, grain treated with strychnine has been preferred by producers. Strychnine is once again available in a concentrated form for on-farm use to the end of July 2009.



Richardson's ground squirrels can cause extreme damage

Timeliness and the right mix of tools are critical when managing gophers by chemical means. The best time to control the rodent is in the spring, as the gophers emerge from over-wintering burrows in search of food. The first to come above ground are the males. Females follow a few weeks later. The males will have usually consumed any underground food caches leaving little available for the females. This makes the females a better target for baits. Controlling the reproductive females will also have a more pronounced effect in reducing populations.

Efficacy levels in response to any grain-based baits can drop well below 30 per cent after green growth appears in the spring. Temperature also seems to influence the spring foraging of gophers. This was noted by a number of producers during the spring of 2008 when the consumption of dry baits was much lower than during the spring of 2007.

The type of vegetative cover is also an important consideration when selecting a management option. Chlorphacinone, an anticoagulant, will be less effective in alfalfa stands as alfalfa contains an antidote (vitamin K) that limits or reduces the toxin's impact.

Gophers actively graze in crop stands up to early to mid-July depending on the region of the province. There may be several reasons involved, but in any event, foraging tapers off at this time and efficacy in all chemical baits will be reduced.

In optimal conditions, it is important to remember any chemical bait will only be 30 to 60 per cent effective in limiting gopher populations. Following label directions to mitigate the impact on gopher predators is also very important. Predation alone may control over 30 per cent of any gopher population.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377.

Agri-ARM: A Network Of Networks That Focuses On Agronomy

by Dr. Larry Gutek
Manager, Crop Business Section
Crop Development Branch

The Saskatchewan Agriculture Applied Research Management Program (Agri-ARM) connects eight regional research and demonstration sites (Scott, Swift Current, Indian Head, Redvers, Canora, Melfort, Prince Albert and Rosthern) into a province-wide network that allows producers, researchers, industry and agrologists to work together on projects. Each location has an affiliated producer committee that sets the research priorities for that site. The Agri-ARM Program receives funding from the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture, which is supplemented by funding from a number of commodity and industry partners . Each site has the infrastructure to conduct producer-driven applied research and undertake demonstration and extension projects in partnership with industry and the Ministry of Agriculture. Agri-ARM has now completed seven field seasons of applied research and demonstration.

Research highlights from 2008 include: canola and sunflower co-op trials; malt barley agronomy; regional variety trials for wheat, barley, oats, flax, peas, beans and fababeans; triticale rotations for ethanol production; winter wheat fertility; potential for straight cutting canola; biodiesel production; nitrogen fixation by legumes; new herbicides; and small fruit production, pruning and processing.

Producers gather at the Scott research farm to learn of the latest Agri-ARM research.

Producers are exposed to the latest developments in the agricultural industry which helps them make input choices such as crop and variety selection, rotation considerations, factors affecting seedling emergence, fertility strategies, weed control options, and insect identification, monitoring and control. Experts from industry, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, the University of Saskatchewan and Saskatchewan Agriculture provide technical expertise at summer field days and other related events during the winter extension season.

The 2008 summer extension program was well-attended and gave industry the chance to demonstrate their new products and technology. The field days are a great opportunity for farmers to learn about the performance of new varieties, the latest production technology and performance of new crops on a regional basis. A new extension event planned for 2009 is the "Harvesting Trends" field day featuring demonstrations of new harvest technology.

The most important feature of Agri-ARM is that it is a network of people doing applied research and demonstration on a regional level. Each site has developed a unique partnership with its affiliated producer group, and is producer- and industry-led with support from the University of Saskatchewan and the federal and provincial agriculture ministries. Agri-ARM is best described as a network of networks.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact Dr. L. H. Gutek, Crop Development Branch, Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture, at (306) 933-5568 or e-mail larry.gutek@gov.sk.ca; or
- Visit the Agri-ARM page on the Saskatchewan Agriculture website at www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/Agri-ARM.

CROP OPPORTUNITY AND SCOTT RESEARCH UPDATE

by Sherrilyn Phelps
Crop Development Specialist
Crop Development Branch

The Western Applied Research Corporation (WARC), Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) and Saskatchewan Agriculture are staging the Crop Opportunity and Scott Research Update on March 5, 2009. This event will allow stakeholders to discuss the latest information on crop management, fertility planning, disease issues, weed control, variety updates and marketing.

One of the crop trials conducted at the Scott research farm this summer.

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. at the Gold Ridge Centre in North Battleford. To pre-register, call the North Battleford Saskatchewan Agriculture Regional Office at 306-446-7964.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact Sherrilyn Phelps, Crop Development Specialist, at 306-446-7475;
- Visit the Saskatchewan Agriculture website at www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca; or
- Visit the WARC website at www.warc.ag.ca.

SOUTHWEST AND WEST-CENTRAL CROPS EVENTS

There are a number of workshops scheduled for the southwest and west-central regions this winter.

Southwest Region

Pulse Development Workshop

- Location: Credit Union i-plex, Swift Current
- Date: March 3, 2009

Cropportunities 2009

- Location: Swift Current
- Date: March 2009 (date to be determined)

West-Central Region

2009 Grain Growers' Symposium: New Technology and Trends in Agriculture

- Location: Civic Centre Gymnasium, Rosetown
- Date: March 5, 2009

Kindersley Ag Outlook

- Location: Elks Hall, Kindersley
- Date: March 18, 2009

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact Shannon Chant, Crop Development Specialist at (306) 778-8291 or e-mail Shannon.Chant@gov.sk.ca; or
- Visit the Saskatchewan Agriculture website at www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca.

Winter Damage to Fruit Trees

by Forrest Scharf
Provincial Specialist, Fruit Crops
Crop Development Branch

Various types of winter damage can occur to fruit trees. Temperature-related injuries include: sunscald, tip dieback, bud death, and heartwood damage.

Cultivars grown in Saskatchewan are bred or adapted to survive extremely low temperatures, but management is often necessary to prevent injury. When temperatures dip below the freezing point, water vapor moves out of plant cells through the cell membrane due to ice formation within intercellular spaces. Other cell constituents like sugars become more concentrated within the cell and this gradual reduction of water leads to dehydration.

In general, it is tolerance of dehydration that allows winter hardy varieties to survive, but some plants also tolerate freezing via production of antifreeze proteins and other compounds. Ice nucleation releases heat, so at relatively short and moderate freezing temperatures little damage occurs to plants, but when temperatures fluctuate dramatically or descend below -40 C, ice crystals form and intracellular freezing occurs leading to cell death. Tip dieback, bud death, and heartwood damage usually occur in situations where temperatures drop dramatically before the plant has hardened off adequately. Limiting soil moisture and the availability of nutrients late in fall, applying hormones like abscisic acid and managing air flow may help plants dehydrate or "harden off" for winter and thereby improve survival.

Protective wrap and paint on a young apple tree.

Sunscald occurs on the south to southwest side of trees, where the bark is exposed to sunlight during the warmest part of the day. Sunlight is absorbed by the bark and internal liquids are heated so that the cells become active; but when the sun sets and the temperature of the bark drops, the active cells die. To prevent this problem, the bark can be painted white (or covered with a reflective wrap), so that the sun's energy is reflected away from the surfaces of the tree. Damage is more likely to occur to young plants with smooth, thin bark such as apples, pears and cherries.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- Contact Forrest Scharf, Provincial Specialist, Fruit Crops in Regina at 306-787-4666 or via e-mail at forrest.scharf@gov.sk.ca.

THE CROP PROTECTION LABORATORY

by Carla Weitzel
Plant Health Technician
Crop Protection Laboratory

The Crop Protection Laboratory (CPL) provides year round services to Saskatchewan field, greenhouse and fruit crop growers. The laboratory tests for a variety of plant diseases including those caused by fungi, bacteria and nematodes. Identification services for weeds and insects are also provided, with an onsite plant and insect sample collection for reference. The CPL accepts submissions of home and garden pests and plant diseases as well.

Testing for herbicide resistance in weeds is offered by the CPL. For accurate and timely results, submit samples that are mature, dry and free from pre-harvest herbicide or disease. For specific instructions or inquiries, contact the CPL staff.

Fees are charged for the CPL services with the amount charged dependent on the complexity of the test.

The Dutch Elm Disease program is also based at the CPL. Each summer, a student is hired to assist Saskatchewan Environment and private home owners in diagnosing trees infected with this disease.

1-800-SASKELM has more information on symptoms and how to properly collect and submit a sample.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

on the Crop Protection Laboratory, fees and how to submit a sample please visit: www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/plant_protection or contact:

- Grant Holzgang, Laboratory Supervisor;
- Carla Weitzel, Plant Health Technician; or
- Nicole Lobb, Plant Technician at 346 McDonald Street, Regina, SK S4N 6P6 - Phone: 306-787-8130.

Technicians examining a sample.

HOT OFF THE PRESS

Saskatchewan Agriculture is constantly updating the wealth of information it makes available to Saskatchewan residents. You can download the most current version of any document posted on our website. You can also call the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377 to request a hard copy of many items. Below is a list of the latest documents posted, as well as the most frequently visited pages, on Saskatchewan Agriculture's website at: www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca.

Grasshopper Forecast Map - The grasshopper forecast map, which indicates populations of this insect pest in Saskatchewan, is now available. Visit: Production | Crops-Insects.

Crop Planning Guides - Provides information that can help estimate the income and cost of production for different crops on summerfallow and stubble in the various soil zones in the province. Visit: Management | Financial Planning.

Guide to Crop Protection - Provides information on the use of herbicides, fungicides and insecticides for control of weeds, plant diseases and insects. Visit: Production | Crops-Overview.

Specialty Crop Report - This report contains statistics on a number of planning and decision factors involved with the planting of specialty crops in Saskatchewan. Visit: Statistics | Crops.

Forward

In July of 2008, the new Growing Forward agreement was signed by the federal government, the provinces and territories. Since then, the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture has been working with its federal counterpart on a bilateral agreement which identifies and details specific non-business risk management (BRM) programming that will be delivered in this province. It is intended that this programming will be available by April 2009.

The purpose of the Growing Forward agreement is to support a profitable and innovative agriculture, agri-food and agri-based products industry. The industry is to achieve this by seizing opportunities in responding to market demands and by proactively managing risks, while contributing to the health and wellbeing of Canadians. The programming that is established and delivered by the federal and provincial governments under the bilateral agreement is to achieve three strategic outcomes. These are: a competitive and innovative sector; a sector that contributes to society's priorities; and a sector that is proactive in managing risk.

The non-BRM component of Growing Forward represents a financial commitment from the federal and provincial governments of $254.4 million in Saskatchewan, covering the five year period ending March 31, 2013. Of this total, $152.6 million is being provided by the federal government. This consists of $141.7 million in specific program funding and $2.09 million spent on national programming which the federal government is attributing to Saskatchewan.

Because the Growing Forward programming is cost shared on a 60:40 basis, Saskatchewan has identified $101.8 million in current or new expenditures as its contribution. Key Growing Forward program areas will include research, farm and value-added business development, environment, water programming, food safety, traceability and biosecurity.

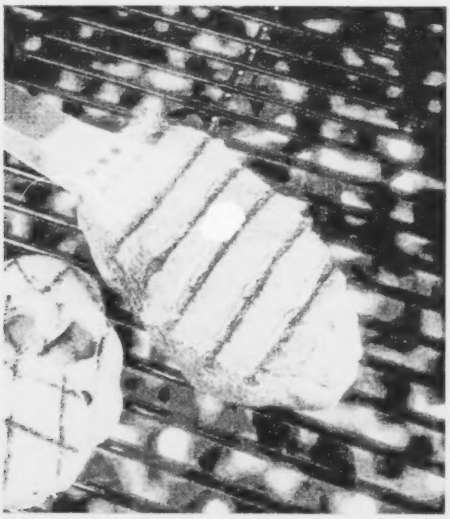
Programs details in these areas are currently being finalized and are expected to be announced in March.

U.S. LABELLING RULES CREATE HAVOC FOR LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY

By Sid Hansen
Trade Analyst
Policy Branch

In September 2008, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) adopted mandatory country-of-origin labelling for meats and several other food products. The acronym for the labelling program is COOL, but most objective observers would say there is nothing cool about it.

COOL requires retailers to inform consumers of the country of origin of certain foods. Since September, COOL has been applied to pork, beef, veal, chicken, goat, lamb and an assortment of other food products or "covered commodities". There are some exceptions concerning COOL's application, such as very small retailers, food service establishments and processed products. With respect to meat, there are detailed rules concerning how a product must be labelled, which can be dependent upon whether or not the animal spent all of its life in the United States.



The USDA admits the estimated benefits of COOL are difficult to quantify and likely to be small. At the same time, they are estimating the cost to U.S. industry to be as high as $2.5 billion to implement new livestock segregation, record-keeping and labelling systems. Industry sources believe the cost will be much higher.

One thing is certain, however: COOL is not good for the Saskatchewan livestock industry. In response to COOL, many U.S. meat packers have reduced the number of plants accepting Canadian livestock or restricted the days on which certain plants will accept Canadian livestock. One major U.S. meat packer has said it will only accept Canadian born and raised hogs after April 2009. Consequently, these types of actions have cut down on the marketing options available for Saskatchewan cattle and hog producers, in addition to putting downward pressure on prices.

COOL is also causing disruption in historical trade flows in an increasingly integrated North American meat and livestock sector. For these reasons, Saskatchewan Agriculture Ministry officials have worked hard to make the point with the federal government that COOL in its current form cannot go unchallenged. Saskatchewan strongly supports the Canadian federal government's decision to have COOL dealt with by the World Trade Organization (WTO) dispute settlement process. Ministry officials have also expressed the provinces' concerns to the USDA.

In support of the federal government's WTO challenge, individual producers who have had specific costs attributable to COOL should pass that information on to their farm livestock organization.

For more information:

- Visit the USDA website at [illegible]
- Contact Sid Hansen, Trade Analyst, Policy Branch, (306) [illegible]

Saskatchewan will work with producers and industry over the coming months to monitor the rule's impact.

Growing Forward

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U.S. LABELLING RULES CREATE HAVOC FOR LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY

by Sid Friesen
Trade Analyst
Policy Branch

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To support the federal government's WTO challenge, individual producers who have had specific contracts affected by COOL should pass that information on to their farm livestock organization.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Visit the USDA website at [redacted]; or
- Contact Sid Friesen, Trade Analyst, Policy Branch at (306) 787-0611 or by e-mail at: [redacted].

Editor's note:
On January 12, the final rule on COOL was released by the USDA. The rule appears to provide greater flexibility to retailers and processors when labelling products. Saskatchewan will work with producers and industry over the coming months to monitor the rule's impact.

Plains Livestock Inc. accesses loan program financing

by Judy MacMillan, PAg
Provincial Supervisor
Livestock Loan Guarantee Program

Recently, Saskatchewan Agriculture's Livestock Loan Guarantee Program (LLG) staff had an opportunity to speak with Plains Livestock Incorporated board member Randall Reed about his thoughts on the LLG program and the new feedlot developed in his community of Porcupine Plain.

Plains Livestock Inc. is a new custom feedlot with one-time capacity of 10,000 head located in the Porcupine Plain area. The feedlot, when fully operational is expected to employ 10 full-time staff with an additional five part-time and seasonal staff. Substantial spin off activity within the community is anticipated in terms of grain, silage, cattle and manure hauling, as well as the usual community development activity.

Randy Reed's involvement with the LLG Program goes back to 1993 when Shand Creek Livestock Co-op Ltd. was formed. Their association's breeder option had been utilized more than the feeder option in the past, as no custom feedlot had been available to producers in the area. Reed says this will change now that Plains Livestock Inc. has opened.

Reed feels that the LLG Feedlot Construction Option has been absolutely vital to the start up of their community feedlot. "Without the Feedlot Construction Option we would have had to raise a significant amount of additional capital from the shareholders. Plains Livestock Inc. is primarily setup as a custom feedlot so the Feedlot Construction Option helped with the equity required to access capital funds needed to build the feedlot by providing additional security to the lender. The option provided our lender with the incentive to offer financing to our group," he said.

Prior to share sales, the community also had the LLG Program Feeder Option explained to local producers, including how they could access financing to buy cattle to custom feed. "An individual producer could join an existing feeder association and get a cash advance on his/her calves to help cover the custom feeding charges incurred to feed his/her cattle," Reed explained. "Every producer should have experience of feeding out their calves at least one year just to see what they are producing and how their calves are performing – it helps knowing the genetic potential."

The feeder association has been very important to producers in the area, according to Reed. "Feed grain supply in this area is plentiful," he said. "Feeder associations enable producers to retain ownership of their calves – to feed out our calves into spring market highs and to turn our feed grain into cash flow." Randy recalls when the feeder co-op first started, the banks were looking at 40 to 50 per cent down. "A feeder association allows young farmers to establish a breeding herd with not much money down and reasonable interest rates. The (LLG) program also allows producers to take an advance on their calves in the fall – providing cash flow to pay down deferred input costs at a time when grain movement is slow. Retaining ownership also enables producers to recover value from their feed grains," he said.

Reed stressed another very important benefit of the LLG program is that it allows young producers with no credit rating to get involved in both the cow/calf and feeding industry. "For example, a young person just out of school, say 20 years old, will find it hard to get financing for cattle purchases through the normal channels. A feeder association helps keep young people and especially young families staying in our community."

A recent enhancement to the LLG program allows producers to get an interest rebate on their feeder loans through a feeder association as part of the federal government's Advanced Payment Program. Under this program most producers are able to get most of the interest they pay on their feeder loans rebated back to them.

- Contact one of the Livestock Loan Guarantee Program offices in Regina at 306-787-5275; or in Saskatoon at 306-933-5745;
- Contact Randall Reed with Shand Creek Livestock Co-op in Porcupine Plain at 306-278-2756 or;
- Contact Richard Wilson with Plains Livestock Inc. in Weekes at 306-889-4500 or 306-278-8389.

THINKING OUTSIDE THE CORRALS

by Christy Winquist, PAg
Beef Forage Specialist
Agriculture Knowledge Centre

This one-day meeting will look at cost-effective ways to successfully winter cows, and will take place at four locations. Specialists from Saskatchewan Agriculture will speak on winter grazing techniques, animal health considerations and the seasonal energy requirements of the animal. Local producers will be sharing their experiences with bale grazing and crop residue grazing.

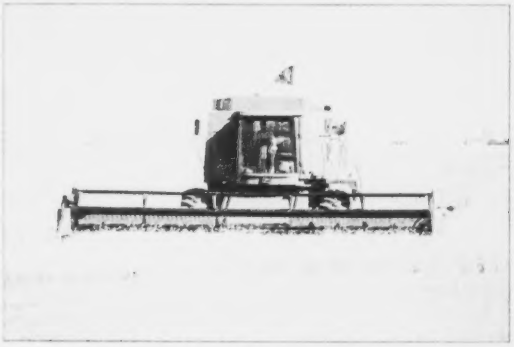
Location:	Date:
Kerrobert	February 3, 2009
Turtleford	February 4, 2009
Melfort	February 10, 2009
Estevan	February 12, 2009

Early registration is January 29, 2009, for Kerrobert and Turtleford and February 5, 2009, for Melfort and Estevan. To register call the Agriculture Knowledge Centre (AKC) at 1-866-457-2377.

- Or a full agenda, contact the AKC or your local regional office.

Land Rental and Farm Expansion

by Richard Wharton, PAg
Production Economics Specialist
Agri-Business Development Branch



Rental contracts and cropping plans for the coming season are on a lot of people's minds right now. Rental agreements may need to be updated and renewed, or perhaps you are contemplating taking on new land. In either situation, there are numerous factors to consider. Reaching an early agreement allows time for arranging schedules and crop inputs.

Profitability

Knowing your profitability and cost of production for each crop is the key to knowing what you can offer for rent. Sensitivity analysis can be a helpful tool in the budgeting and decision-making processes. Work out a budget with high and low prices to see how price swings will affect your bottom line. Do the same exercise with yields. Determine the yields and prices you need to obtain to cover your cost of production, and estimate the probability of reaching these targets.

Land Rental Agreements

There are number of considerations if your neighbour offers to rent you a section of land. How secure is the agreement? What is the length of the agreement? Have you analysed crop share versus cash versus flexible cash rent? Is this land that you would consider buying? If so, consider a first right of refusal clause.

Financial Risk

Understand your current financial situation before considering an expansion. Your attitude to risk will have a big influence on your choices. Are you ready for expansion, or would you gain more by concentrating on the management of your present operation? Is your family living on the edge, be extra careful with expansion plans.

Machinery and Labour

Do you have the machinery and labour to handle the extra acres in a timely manner? You may find yourself in a situation where you have too much land for a single piece of machinery, but not enough land to justify the purchase of a second. A machine lease or custom operator may take you over until your land base warrants a second machine.

Lastly, don't forget the human side of the expansion decision. Will the extra acres take time away from family, community and recreation? Will the farm lifestyle you have created for yourself appeal to the next generation, or will they consider it too much work for too little reward?

There is no single right answer to the expansion question, just make sure you consider all angles.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377 or
- Visit the Saskatchewan Agriculture website at www.agr.gov.sk.ca and search under Management for sample land rental agreements and other resources.

ANNUAL FARM CREDIT NEEDS

by Kenneth Evans
Agri-Business DevelopmentSpecialist
Agri-Business Development Branch

Winter months are traditional time periods where farmers and their farm lenders get together to review the farm's past year's performance and identify credit needs for the coming crop year.

To assist in this annual review there are a few points to consider and items to have prepared before meeting with your ag-lender.

Have your last year's income and expense statement complete. Preferably this statement is completed on an accrual basis.

Have an up-to-date net worth statement or balance sheet. The assets should reflect current market value and the liabilities should be as up to date as possible.

Take the opportunity when meeting with your lender to understand what these reports are stating in terms of the farm's present financial position. How does your lender view last year's results? What performance measurements is the lender typically assessing?

Include a comprehensive listing of all your inventories and any receivables that are owing to the farm. If there are any receivables it is a good idea to indicate how long they have been owed to you. Many farm operating loans are directly based (margined) upon the farm's inventory so it is important that this list be as accurate as possible.

Include a comprehensive listing of all your farm payables alongside some detail when those payables begin to accrue interest and at what rate of interest. You should also include credit card debt that is directly attributed to farm expenses as well.

Plan ahead for the coming year's capital expenditures. Provide your lender with some details about possible purchases (land/machinery) for the coming year. These details may include approximate cost of the acquisition, amount of down payment and how long the loan could be amortized over. Much of this planning process is dependent upon understanding what last year's results were and how that impacts future borrowing capacity. Will your projected cashflow meet any new loan repayment obligations? Perhaps some loans are now paid in full which will be considered in the capital expenditure plan.

In summary, this annual credit review process is an integral part of farm business management and being proactive with your lender will benefit both.

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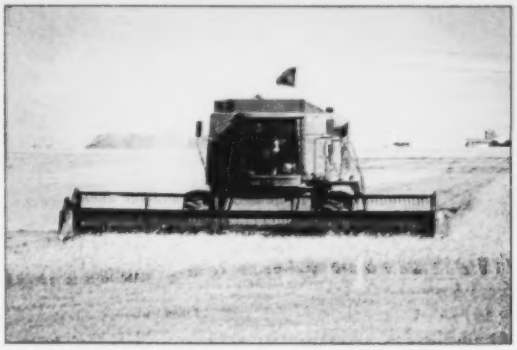

Do you have too much land for one combine, but not enough for two? A machine lease or custom operator may be a solution.

Lastly, don't forget the human side of the expansion decision. Will the extra acres take time away from family, community and recreation? Will the farm lifestyle you have created for yourself appeal to the next generation, or will they consider it too much work for too little reward?

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In summary, this annual credit review process is an integral part of farm business management and being proactive with your lender will benefit both.

What is a levy and how does it work?

by Corey Ruud
Acting General Manager
Agri-Food Council

In Saskatchewan there are 12 non-marketing board agencies that have been established under *The Agri-Food Act, 2004*, (Act). These agencies have been granted the power to set and collect a levy on agricultural products to be used to advance their commodity sector. Nine of the agencies are development commissions and three are development boards. The only difference between a commission and a board is the nature of the levy; for commissions the levy is refundable and for a board it is non-refundable. Oversight of these agencies is provided by the Agri-Food Council (council), a board that is responsible to the Minister of Agriculture. The council's main responsibility is to monitor the activities of the agencies to ensure they are consistent with both the Act and each agency's plan.

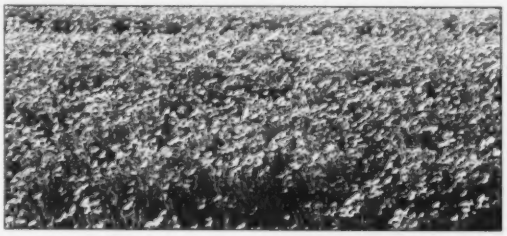
Development agencies are producer initiated and are operated and governed by producers. In order for a development agency to be formed, proponents involved in the production and/or marketing of an agricultural product must submit a written proposal to the Minister of Agriculture for consideration. Once established, agencies are governed by a producer-elected board of directors. Each agency board is responsible for ensuring that the levies collected are used in a manner consistent with their plan.

Development agencies have and continue to play a substantial role in the development and profitability of the industry they represent. Through the levies collected from producers, these agencies are able to invest in the future of their sector through research, development, promotion and marketing initiatives. It is clear that the majority of producers recognize the value they receive from these levies – the percentage of producers who request a refund of their levies ranges from two to seven per cent.

Development agencies are a good example of producers taking responsibility and control of their industry, and of producers investing in their future and the future of their industry.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact Corey Ruud, Agri-Food Council Acting General Manager at (306) 787-5978 or e-mail [illegible].



SASKATCHEWAN ENGAGED IN FEDERAL LEVEL OF SERVICE REVIEW

A federal rail freight service review is currently underway. This review will include an examination of the service level railways have provided for grain transportation.

In 2007, when revisions to the *Canada Transportation Act* (CTA) Bill C-8 were introduced, the federal Transport Minister committed to initiating a review of rail service levels within 30 days of the CTA passing. Under Bill C-8, railway companies are required to provide an adequate and suitable level of service to shippers. A shipper may file a complaint with the Canadian Transportation Agency if it feels that a railway is not providing acceptable levels of service.

The review will be conducted in two phases. Phase one, data collection, will consist of four projects/studies that will be undertaken in the first six months of the review. On completion of phase one, phase two will include appointment of a three-member review panel by the federal Transport Minister. This panel will consist of one member with an expertise in rail operations, one member with an expertise in shipping and one member that is deemed to be neutral. Based on the findings of the study, the panel members will develop a series of recommendations, and the entire package will be made public for the scrutiny and comment of all interested parties.

The proposed Saskatchewan strategy, led by the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure, includes:

- working to ensure hearings of the federal panel take place in Saskatchewan;
- working to ensure that Saskatchewan has input into the membership of the federal panel;
- working with shippers to document specific service issues for presentation to the federal panel; and
- drafting a provincial submission to the commission to supplement the submissions made by specific rail shippers.

Efficient and reliable rail transportation service is essential to the economic well being of the agricultural industry in Saskatchewan. The Ministry of Agriculture is actively engaged with the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure in this process in order to improve rail service for Saskatchewan producers and agri-business.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Transport Canada invites written comments at [illegible]; or
- Final terms of reference can be found at [illegible].

The Feed Barley and Oat Breeding program is a mainstay at the Crop Development Centre

Doug Pchajek
Acting Manager, Research and Development
Agriculture Research Branch

Since arriving decades ago at the Crop Development Centre (CDC) from the University of Manitoba, Dr. Brian Rossnagel has directed one of the most prolific breeding programs in Western Canada's cereal breeding community. The barley and oat breeding program, funded in large part by Saskatchewan Agriculture's Strategic Research Program, focuses on the development of new oat and barley varieties with the characteristics needed by farmers, food processors and the feed industry.

With additional Ministry support through the Agriculture Development Fund, the barley and oat breeding team has worked on developing semi-dwarf barley varieties with improved straw strength to reduce lodging. Over the years, this CDC program has also focussed on disease resistance breeding with projects related to net blotch, fusarium head blight, loose smut and oat crown rust resistance.

The barley and oat breeding group has also received significant financial contributions from industry, and has worked on several traits of interest to the food industry, including studies related to the size and distribution of starch granules, the development of hulless waxy and high amylose barley varieties, which have health benefits for both people and animals, and improvements in malting barley varieties.

The feed industry has also been the beneficiary of the team's work over the years, due to its efforts in developing forage oat and barley varieties, improving the nutritive value of oats and the evaluation of the potential for selecting barley varieties that have reduced hull content and are more palatable to livestock.

The Strategic Research Program is a partnership between Saskatchewan Agriculture and the University of Saskatchewan to pay the salaries of research scientists and technicians who are working in areas of strategic importance to Saskatchewan's agriculture industry.

Dr. Brian Rossnagel gives a presentation to producers.

The Ministry of Agriculture invests in excess of $3 million per year to support research and development activities at CDC, and this helps to leverage in excess of $5 million per year from other sources.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact Dr. Brian Rossnagel at (306) 966-4976 or [illegible] or
- Visit the Saskatchewan Agriculture website at [illegible].

TERMINATION METHOD AFFECTS NITROGEN RELEASE ON FORMER ALFALFA STANDS

by Mitchell Japp, PAg
Program Manager, Soils, Environment,
Horticulture and Alternative Crops
Agriculture Research Branch

When it comes to terminating an alfalfa stand, the choice between herbicide and tillage can have an effect on subsequent crop yields.

A recent study funded by Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture's Agriculture Development Fund found that terminating an alfalfa stand using herbicide rather than tillage postponed the increase in soil-available nitrogen until the second year. Applying nitrogen fertilizer compensated for yield losses associated with the slower release of N, as well as for yield losses associated with later termination times.

The project, entitled "Effects of Time and Method of Terminating Alfalfa Stands on Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Soil N Supply, Fertilizer N Requirements and Crop Yield" was led by Dr. S.S. Malhi at the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Melfort research station. It evaluated different methods of alfalfa termination and their effects on plant-availability of soil nitrogen and nitrogen losses.

The researchers studied three termination methods (tillage, herbicide plus tillage and herbicide alone), three termination times (after the first and second cuts in 2003, and spring 2004) and four rates of annually applied urea (0, 40, 80, and 120 kg actual N/ha) to crops grown following termination of a seven-year-old alfalfa stand near Melfort, SK.

In 2004, the researchers found that soil nitrate was lowest with the herbicide termination method, which was associated with lower wheat yields. They also found that termination with herbicide had a better yield response to lower rates of supplemental N, compared to the tillage and herbicide plus tillage treatments.

Generally, terminating the stand after the first cut resulted in higher soil nitrate levels – and better yields – than the second cut termination, but for plots terminated with herbicide, yields were best with spring termination.

In 2005, the researchers found no differences in soil nitrate levels or crop yield with any of the different termination methods and times. When they returned to the plots in 2006 and '07, the researchers could find no important differences in N levels or crop yields. Drought conditions in the three years preceding the start of the study may have had an impact on the results by limiting N2 fixation by the alfalfa.

Dr. Jeff Schoeneau, a University of Saskatchewan professor who worked on the project, summarized the results: "As expected, when terminating with tillage you will get a faster release of N. When terminating with herbicide, the release of N will be slower, but this can be offset with the addition of nitrogen fertilizer. A slower release can be positive, when there are conditions that could lead to high losses of N.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

- Contact S.S. Malhi at 752-2776 extension 230 or [illegible].
- Visit the Saskatchewan Agriculture website at [illegible].

Human Resource Tips and Trends for Agribusinesses

by Dylan Clarke
Agri-Business Development Specialist
Agri-Business Development Branch

Finding and retaining quality employees is a common challenge in Saskatchewan's current economy and competitive job market, regardless of a business sector, size or location. Labour will continue to be an issue, as independent forecasters predict Saskatchewan's economy will remain strong in 2009. If human resource management is a concern in your agri-business or farm operation, consider the following.

Before you advertise an open position, be sure that you are able to clearly communicate your business's vision, mission, structure and values and know what qualities and qualifications you require in a successful employee. By defining these areas, you will be able to prepare questions that will bring these characteristics and skills out in the interview and will be better able to screen candidates according to their fit with your business. When targeting potential employees, take advantage of referrals from existing employees, utilize online posting boards, and use existing networks for referrals. These three sources are often considered the best ways to find prospective employees.

If your business has staff turnover, you are not alone. In a recent survey completed by AgCareers.com, 28 per cent of the agribusinesses surveyed experienced an employee turnover rate of more than 20 per cent in 2008. Several different studies have shown that quality employees are more likely to stay in a position if:

- there is honest, consistent communication and a positive work environment;
- performance is recognized and appreciated, and benefits and salary packages are competitive;
- there is flexibility to support a healthy work-life balance; and *most importantly*,
- the position is challenging and has potential for growth and continued training.

There are numerous training programs and resources available to agri-businesses to assist with managing human resources. For example, if training is a priority in your business, consider referring to the Centre for Agribusiness Training and Education (CATE) website. The website is a clearinghouse for various training opportunities for agri-businesses. For more information on human resource management and programs, please contact an Agri-Business Development Specialist in Saskatchewan Agriculture's regional offices.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact Dylan Clarke, Agri-Business Development Specialist in Weyburn at 306-848-2309 or e-mail dylan.clarke@gov.sk.ca.
- Visit the CATE website at www.agtraining.ca.

BEAVER RIDGE LODGE – TAKING ADVANTAGE OF AGRI-TOURISM OPPORTUNITIES

by Karen Smith, AAg
Agri-Business Development Specialist Intern
Agri-Business Development Branch

Over the past several months Saskatchewan Agriculture's Agri-Business Development Specialists have been meeting with agri-business owners across the province as part of an ongoing business development project. Agri-tourism is one of the sectors specialists studied to gain a better understanding of industry opportunities and barriers to growth. Agri-tourism can be described as an economic activity that combines travel with agricultural services or products. It creates awareness of on-farm activities and helps those who are not from a rural background to understand farming practices.

A Beaver Ridge Lodge guest learns how to saddle a horse on her own

Owners of Beaver Ridge Lodge, Marcia Burym and Todd Griffith, opened their door to the public in April 2008. This guest ranch is located one hour north of Yorkton at an old aboriginal sweat lodge. Open year around, Beaver Ridge Lodge offers activities such as horseback riding, snowmobiling and fishing. Guests are encouraged to take part in everyday activities such as saddling horses, feeding the livestock or cleaning the barns; activities many would never experience otherwise.

When asked about opportunities in agri-tourism, Burym and Griffith shared their excitement at starting their venture in Saskatchewan. "Saskatchewan is a province that is growing and provides unlimited potential for the tourism industry," Burym said. The idea of an agri-tourism business was appealing to the couple because it provided an opportunity to utilize land, live at home and still bring in an income to the family farm. Besides an ideal location, they also believe that agri-tourism is a growing industry, as local and out-of-province travellers are looking for country-style vacations.

According to the Canadian Farm Business Management Council, agri-tourism is the fastest growing tourist product in the world. Consumers are demanding local products and want to put a face back on the farm. Tourists no longer want to sit in their vehicles and watch the scenery go by, but rather, want to learn about and experience an area in a meaningful way.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact a Saskatchewan Agriculture Agri-Business Development Specialist at a Regional Office near you; or

Visit Saskatchewan Agriculture's website at www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca; or

Visit Beaver Ridge Lodge's website www.beaverridgelodge.ca.

Agri-Tourism Conference highlights

by Karen Wasylyk
Agri-business Development Analyst
Agri-Business Development Branch

An agri-tourism conference held in conjunction with the Canadian Farm Business Management Council's (CFBMC) agri-marketing workshop examined opportunities open to producers looking for ways to diversify and increase farm revenues. The conference, which was held in Prince Albert, was of particular interest to those engaged in agri-tourism, farmers' markets and value added agri-food products. It provided participants with information on ways to enhance their marketing skills and better promote their farm businesses.

The general theme guest speakers wanted to impress upon producers was that they focus on promotion rather than advertising, as it is the most effective use of limited marketing dollars. The idea is that, through relationship building and community involvement, the community in turn will promote your business. Having a well-designed website is also essential for business growth. Agri-tourism owners should be creative with marketing - provide media with regular press releases, plan special events and be aware of rural activities (which you may take for granted), as they are new and interesting for urban tourists. Additionally, innovative, dollar-conscious marketing comes from knowing the intricate details of your customers and your competition. The more you know - the more effective your marketing plan will be.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact Karen Wasylyk, Agri- business Development Analyst, Prince Albert at (306)-953-2783.

A REGULATORY SUCCESS STORY - QUILL LAKE COLONY

by Bryan Gourlie, P. Eng
Provincial Specialist
Inspection and Regulatory Management Branch

Established in 1978, the mixed farm operation of the Hutterian Brethren Church of Quill Lake is situated on Twin Creek near the town of Quill Lake. With 21 families, 100 dairy cows, a 300 sow farrow to finish hog operation, beef, poultry and vegetable gardens, water is vital to the success of the farm. The farm draws water from deep and shallow aquifers on-site and uses spring runoff water from Twin Creek to fill their reservoir for the dairy. The importance of protecting water sources is important to the sustainability of the farm.

With little natural protection for the shallow groundwater resources, Jonathan Tschetter, Farm Manager, could not store the operation's swine and dairy manure in excavated earthen manure storage systems. To protect the aquifer, manure has been stored in the barns and hauled weekly to crop land for use as a fertilizer. This has been labour intensive and required the manure to be applied to frozen soil.

Working cooperatively with the Ministry of Agriculture's Regional Specialists with the Inspection and Regulatory Management Branch, Mr. Tschetter has updated the farm's provincially approved intensive livestock waste storage, mortality management and nutrient management plans to meet the regulatory requirements of *The Agricultural Operations Act*.

"The Quill Lake Colony has done a commendable job in bringing their operation up to current environmental standards," said Bryce Sundbo, Regional Specialist with the Inspection and Regulatory Management Branch in Saskatoon. "They have demonstrated a commitment to protect the water for the future of their farm and the public."

A key element was the Quill Lake Colony's significant commitment to install a 2.7 million imperial gallon "Slurrystore" steel manure tank. Besides protecting water resources, the tank provides operational and management benefits for the operation. "The mixing system in the tank creates a consistent blend of manure with predictable nutrient content," Mr. Tschetter said. "The value of this fertilizer will help pay back the cost of the tank over time."

Bryce Sundbo, Regional Specialist, and Jonathan Tschetter discuss manure storage plan

In addition to storing manure, the Colony has received approval for their nutrient management and mortality plans. These plans describe the application rate and locations they plan to apply manure to their crop land as fertilizer in the spring and fall. Disposal of normally occurring livestock mortalities will be accomplished by composting.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact the Inspection and Regulatory Management Branch in Regina at 306-787-4680; or
- Visit our website at www.agr.gov.sk.ca and click Environment, then Regulations.

Saskatchewan Crop Insurance 101: Back to the basics

Saskatchewan Crop Insurance continually develops and delivers programs and services to meet the changing needs of producers in the province.

As such, Crop Insurance will respond to the recommendations made in the Crop Insurance Review. Watch for 2009 program details that will be coming soon.

Crop Insurance manages the production risk for any producer meeting eligibility requirements. Once a contract is secured, it is continuous. This means you will be continually enrolled in the program with the same selections every year, unless you decide to change or cancel your contract prior to the March 31 deadline. Even though coverage is continuous, you should contact your customer service office annually to review any program changes or new options which may suit your farm operation better.

Premiums are cost shared between producers (40 per cent) and the provincial and federal governments (60 per cent). Rates are designed to recover losses over the long-term, with the excess in any year, if any, paying down debt from past claims or to build a reserve for future claims. Program administration is cost shared by the federal and provincial governments. Saskatchewan Crop Insurance also administers premium discounts and surcharges, acknowledging the different levels of risk of their customers. Premiums for customers without a history of repeated claims can be reduced to a maximum of 50 per cent.

Coverage is provided in the event of production losses caused from uncontrollable natural hazards. Losses that are controllable or potentially preventable are not covered, such as poor quality seed and chemical damage.

Crop Insurance is dedicated to providing products and services for sustaining the agriculture sector and continues to expand its offerings based on the needs of its customers. This allows producers to customize their contracts to their needs, but also increases the complexities in understanding how you are covered.

Crop Insurance representatives are knowledgeable on the insurance programs and understand agriculture in your area. Crop Insurance will continue to work with producers to develop the best strategy for their individual situations and provide the resources to inform them of what is available. With a strong rural presence of 21 Customer Service Offices, we are committed to growing in Saskatchewan.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- To learn more about insurance programs and what options are available, schedule an appointment with a Customer Service Representative in your area;
- Call 1-888-935-0000; or
- Visit www.sgi.sk.ca/sgi_ins/crop/index.html

ASSISTING FOOD PROCESSORS WITH FOOD SAFETY CHALLENGES

by Carmen Ly
Communications Director
Food Centre

Food processors are looking forward to 2009 after the rippling effects of 2008's outbreaks of ecoli, salmonella, listeria, etc. in the food industry. High profile recall stories in the media have put the subject of food safety in consumers' top of mind and have driven food processors to take an in-depth look at the effectiveness of their own food safety program.

Larger companies have the resources to have specific employees committed to ensure food quality and safety requirements. However, small to medium-sized companies are challenged with having specific staff assigned to these requirements. This becomes a bigger hurdle for food processors in rural areas. Saskatchewan food processors need to be equipped with the tools to manufacture a safe and quality product.

Regular swab checks on processing equipment is standard practice in a HACCP plan.

To assist Saskatchewan food processors with this challenge, the Food Centre offers online food safety trainings through its Food Industry Training website. Recently launched is the online training for a Hazardous Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) and Food Safety Certificate.

HACCP is an internationally recognized and trusted safety program in the food industry. This online training is geared to all types of food manufacturing plants. For food processors that can't afford the cost or time to send staff for HACCP training or individuals with busy lifestyles, the online format is flexible and designed to be completed at your own pace.

The online training program contains detailed information on the topic, real applications, knowledge checks, pictures, quizzes, fun activities and a message board to share concerns and ideas. The curriculum consists of HACCP overview and building blocks, an in depth look at prerequisite programs and developing your own HACCP plans. Members will be able to see and download forms that are routinely used with HACCP; access a variety of supplemental materials to understand regulations and other systems that are required with food processing; and receive a free HACCP workbook binder which contains a CD of HACCP templates and can be customized to suit individual company's manufacturing when developing a HACCP system.

Register today at www.FIT.Foodfirst.ca for a special introductory rate.

Financial support for the online HACCP was provided by the Agriculture Council of Saskatchewan through the Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food Saskatchewan (ACAAFS) program. Funding for the ACAAFS program is provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Visit our training site at www.FoodIndustryTraining.ca; or
- Contact the Food Centre's online trainer: Allan Coulthard at 306-964-1820.

EVENTS CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	PHONE	INTERNET
Feb. 2	Regional Pulse Development Workshop	Yorkton, SK	1-866-457-2377	www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/Calendar
Feb. 3	Thinking Outside the Corrals Winter Feeding Workshop	Kerrobert, SK	306-694-3468	www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/Calendar
Feb. 3	Regional Pulse Development Workshop	Swift Current, SK	1-866-457-2377	www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/Calendar
Feb. 3 - 4	Growing Your Opportunities 2009 Value Plus	Watrous, SK	306-933-6128	www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/Calendar
Feb. 4	Thinking Outside the Corrals Winter Feeding Workshop	Turtleford, SK	306-694-3468	www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/Calendar
Feb. 4	Regional Pulse Development Workshop	Moose Jaw, SK	1-866-457-2377	www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/Calendar
Feb. 5	Regional Pulse Development Workshop	Weyburn, SK	1-866-457-2377	www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/Calendar
Feb. 10	Thinking Outside the Corrals Winter Feeding Workshop	Melfort, SK	306-694-3468	www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/Calendar
Feb. 10	Moose Mountain Ag Day Seminar	Arcola, SK	306-455-2615	www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/Calendar
Feb. 11	Thinking Outside the Corrals Winter Feeding Workshop	Estevan, SK	306-694-3468	www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/Calendar
Feb. 25 - 26	Soils and Crops Workshop	Saskatoon, SK	306-787-0556	www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/Calendar
Mar. 2	Power of Change Workshop	Southey, SK	306-726-5885	www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/Calendar
Mar. 3	Targets for Success Workshop	Macklin, SK	306-753-2143	www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/Calendar
Mar. 5	Crop Opportunity and Scott Research Update	North Battleford, SK	306-446-7475	www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/Calendar
Mar. 9	Value Chain Workshop - Understanding Category Management	Regina, SK	306-975-6847	www.agcouncil.ca/events
Mar. 10	Value Chain Workshop - Understanding Category Management	Regina, SK	306-975-6847	www.agcouncil.ca/events

MOOSE MOUNTAIN AG DAY 2009

Success in agriculture is enhanced by quality research and the adoption of the research into farming practices. Moose Mountain Ag Day 2009 is a one-day agricultural seminar with speakers on effects of soil health on grain and forage crops, livestock marketing and cocktail forage mixtures.

Agenda Includes:

Dr. Kris Nichols: Microbial Engineering to Enhance your Bottom Line
The impacts of crop rotations, tillage practices and livestock grazing management on soil aggregation, water relationships and glomalin.

Don Christensen: Simple Break-Even Calculations for Cow/Calf Producers to Background
Joint ventures and value-added products are keys to success and growth.

Dr. Dwayne Beck: Known Knowns, Known Unknowns, and Unknown Unknowns (Grain Focus)
This project's key contribution was identification of the extremely important role played by crop rotation in minimizing weed, disease and insect problems, while increasing potential profitability.

Dr. Byron Irvine: Alternate Forages for Late Summer and Fall Grazing - The Good, The Bad and The Ugly
The Economically Robust, Energy Reduced and Environmentally Responsible (ER)^3 farming systems include cropping systems which have short-term forage stands and aid in extending the grazing systems.

Dr. Dwayne Beck: Let Mother Do It
Taking advantage of natural processes by working with Mother Nature rather than trying to overpower her.

Date, Time and Location:
February 10th, 2009
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Prairie Place Hall, Arcola, SK

Registration:
Includes Lunch: $25 each or table of 8 for $200
Registration Deadline: Feb 3, 2009

To Register:
Phone: Cornerstone REDA at 306-453-6097
Fax: Cornerstone REDA at 306-453-6380
Email: creda@sasktel.net

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact: Ministry of Agriculture - Bob Klemmer at 306-848-2380
- Moose Mountain Ag Day Committee - Mark Neuman at 306-489-2092

Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture